

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: IMPELLIZZERI, Frederic

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EXAMINER: Kim, John

TITLE: SELF-LOCKING OSTEOSYNTHESIS DEVICE

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 9 (canceled). Please cancel Claims 1 - 9 and substitute Claims 10 - 18 therefor as follows.

10. (new) A self-locking osteosynthesis device comprising:

a plate having a plurality of openings formed therein, each of said plurality of openings having a diameter, said plate being formed of a metallic material; and

a plurality of inserts respectively received in said plurality of openings, each of said plurality of inserts defining a hole having a diameter less than the diameter of the opening, each of said plurality of inserts being formed of a biocompatible polymeric material, each of said plurality of inserts being locked into the opening when a tapping screw is inserted into the hole.

11. (new) The device of Claim 10, said plurality of inserts being formed of a thermoplastic polymer.

12. (new) The device of Claim 10, said plurality of inserts being formed of a polyether ether ketone material.

13. (new) The device of Claim 10, the hole having a conical shape.

14. (new) The device of Claim 10, said plate being formed of titanium.

15. (new) The device of Claim 10, said plurality of inserts being molded respectively

into said plurality of openings.

16. (new) The device of Claim 10, said plurality of inserts being mechanically secured respectively in said plurality of openings.

17. (new) The device of Claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of tapping screws threadedly secured respectively in the hole of said plurality of inserts, each of said plurality of tapping screws comprising a head formed at an end thereof, said head extending conically from said end, and head having a conical threading formed thereon and extending from said end, said conical threading engaging a wall of the hole of the insert such that the insert is in interference fit relation with a wall of the opening.

18. (new) The device of Claim 10, each of said osteosynthesis having a shoulder formed thereon so as to be resistive of a rotation of the insert in the opening.